313 H Street, NW
Washington, D. C.
March 3, 1942

Mr. Joseph First
Philadelphia Inquirer
400 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. First:

I have your letter of yesterday referring to my letter of February 26 and the bills I had earlier put in.

Evidently you have not been told of anything that has transpired with reference to these matters. The same questions were raised in New York by Mr. Whiting and by Mr. Hayden, President of CLICK, Inc. At that time I adequately answered all of Mr. Whiting's questions and all of the questions raised by Mr. Hayden. Also at that time I informed Mr. Whiting on more than one occasion that I was prepared to offer any explanation that might be required. As a matter of fact, when it became apparent to me that there was some question in Mr. Hayden's mind, I requested Mr. Whiting on at least two occasions to make an appointment for me with Mr. Hayden in order that I might satisfy him. Mr. Whiting reported to me that he had conferred with Mr. Hayden, that Mr. Hayden was satisfied, and informed me that, as a consequence, the money that was due me would be in my hands within a week.

So far as the Rohm & Haas matter is concerned, you unquestionably do not know what is involved, else you would not feel as you do. Mr. Whiting and Mr. Hayden have been satisfied on this point, and I am prepared to satisfy you. Mr. Rogers can also give you any explanation you might desire. When you know all the facts, I am certain you will consider this a very reasonable bill.

I do not, of course, consider your request for information unusual. It is good business practice. However, you must by this time realize that, so far as I was concerned, I had satisfied all the requests for information by the President of CLICK, Inc., and by the ranking editorial employee at that time. There may be some reason not apparent to me for the Corporation's counsel's approving its business transactions, but it would seem that under those circumstances he should at least be given the information in the possession of the Corporation's officials.

You take exception to my use of the words "dirty stuff". I feel you are entitled to a sample of what I have in mind.

After being informed that I would have all the money due me by the Monday following my conference with Whiting, I communicated with CLICK on the Wednesday two days after I should have received the money. I was informed that everything had been sent to Chicago and that it was a matter of a day or two before I would get it. At that time I requested CLICK to check up on the matter. To this date I have heard no further from them about this request. Two days later, on Friday, when talking to Whiting on the telephone, I again asked him why I had not received my money. He replied the vouchers had been sent to Chicago and for me not to worry, I would have the money very soon. The following week I sent Whiting a wire, asking him why I had not heard from him about the

check-up I had asked him to make. To this date I have had no answer to the wire. The following day, when I called on CLICK business and when I was also going to ask Mr. Chellas about a letter he had written me, CLICK refused to take the call and I had to pay for it myself. Mr. Chellas had written me that he "rejected" my expense account covering two whole weeks on the ground that he did not think these expenses had been authorized. You will note that Mr. Chellas made no effort to obtain any information from me and he either got no information or misinformation from Whiting. This expense account covered expenses incurred on authorized work here in Washington, plus a trip to New York for a conference with Whiting necessitated by the changes in CLICK. This trip was authorized by Whiting in advance and again when I was with him. When I spoke to Chellas on the occasion referred to above, he informed me he would be in Washington the following Thursday and at that time he would speak to me about the whole matter to get it cleared up. He did call me and told me that he was in a hurry to go to the War Production Board and could not talk to me. He said that he had referred the expense account to you. He also said that it was none of my business why he "rejected" the expense account without consulting me. He was otherwise nasty on this occasion and I returned his compliment. During this conversation, Mr. Chellas informed me that, to his knowledge, the vouchers had been sent to Chicago on the preceding Friday. It is obvious that, if this is true, all the other information given me about the vouchers is false, and I do not see why CLICK should lie to me.

I think this is "dirty stuff". As you would know, if you had been given any of the background on this matter, some of these bills are of long standing and almost without exception responsible employees of CLICK as of today are personally acquainted with it. If anyone had, or if you will, check into it you will find that settlements were made when I visited CLICK for our rather frequent conferences and that I had had no such conference in CLICK's office prior to my recent one from the time CLICK moved to New York. When Mr. Whiting indicated to me that there might be some delay which I considered not justified, I indicated to him that if this happened I would take other action. Mr. Whiting assured me this would be unnecessary. He also assured me that when I was paid, I would be compensated for two assignments for which he knew I had forgotten to include bills. These assignments consist of a follow-up story on the Schering Corporation, the text of which is in Whiting's possession, together with illustrations he has promised to return to me, and the assignment to go to Kentucky on a feuding story which apparently Mr. Walter Annenberg was interested in but which Mr. Rogers and Mr. Chase, after I got the story, thought was not suited for CLICK but was more suitable for a book.

I think you can now understand why I feel as I do about this matter, and I think it must be apparent to you why I consider I am being stalled. I see no reason why this should be. Upon your personal assurance that I am not being stalled, I will not immediately take further action. From what Bob Rogers has told me about you, I think I can take <u>your</u> word. In your concluding paragraph you refer to the income tax problem of your auditing department. In view of this, I don't suppose it is necessary to emphasize to you the importance to me of a rapid settlement of this matter because of my income tax problem. I trust you will, if it is within your province, see to it that this matter is settled immediately.

You will recall that in my letter I asked you to call me if there is any further explanation you desire. I do not now feel that you or CLICK need any further information, but if you feel otherwise, I repeat my telephone number is District 2108.

Yours very truly,

Harold Weisberg